

Winter Safety Tips From The Road Department

The 2017 winter season is upon us, the safety and convenience of the traveling public is a priority to the Henderson County Road Department. The goal of the department is to have all county roads passable within the limitations of our resources. The following are tips for the traveling public:

- Remember that trucks are heavier than cars. Due to the weight and size of large trucks they take longer to safely come to a complete stop, so avoid cutting quickly in front of them.
- Leave room for Road Maintenance Vehicles and Plows – **stay back at least 200 feet**. Trucks are equipped with salt/sand spreaders which will project the material through the air into both lanes, therefore do not pass the plow truck while it is dispensing.
- Most importantly please remember to SLOW DOWN for your safety as well as ours!
- Remember that the road in front of the plow is usually in much worse condition than the roadway behind the plow. Plows will typically travel under 25 miles per hour and there may be a temptation to pass them. For your safety, remain a safe distance behind the snowplows, which is a minimum of 200 foot.
- It is never recommended to pass a snowplow, county roads are narrow and the blade extends several feet in front of the truck and beyond the actual width of the truck.
- Be aware that the hazard exists, plows will throw ice and snow which may cause damage to vehicles, and these are considered common road hazards and may be reported to your insurance company.
- When you see an approaching snow plow on a roadway, move as far away from the center line as you safely can since blowing snow may obscure the actual width of the snowplow's blade.
- Turn on your lights- to see and be seen. Brush the snow off your headlights and taillights frequently
- During plowing operations, visibility can be reduced by blowing snow; plow operators may need time to stop or move over to avoid stranded vehicles. Keeping a safe distance between your vehicle and the plow is very important in order to avoid accidents
- Plows will run during snow events beginning 2 hours prior to sunrise and run no later than 2 hours following sunset for the safety of our operators, however we understand there maybe qualifying circumstances that will require personnel to be called out.
- If you have questions or concerns please contact the road department at 270-826-8843, after business hours if you have an emergency please call 911.

The below illustration shows the limited visibility for a snowplow driver therefore we strongly urge all motorists to follow the above recommendation when traveling during snow events:

